

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00752 010443Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/096 W

-----111056 010936Z /15

R 010353Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2285
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ILO, AS, PEPR
SUBJECT: STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: GENEVA 1299

1. WE WENT OVER AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL'S POINTS (REFTEL)
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00752 010443Z

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR THE DETAILED ENUNCIATION OF U.S. VIEWS
ON STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY.

2. THE AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ILO
IS THAT FOR BETTER OR WORSE THE G-77 HAVE AN ELEMENT
OF JUSTICE ON THEIR SIDE. WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT

DESIRABLE TO SEE THE ILO DETERIORATE FURTHER INTO A PROPAGANDA CIRCUS, THE GOA IS PRETTY WELL RECONCILED TO THE NEED TO GIVE A MORE CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO THE G-77'S DESIRE TO BREAK THE HAMMERLOCK GRIP THE INDUSTRIAL MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES HAVE HITHERTO EXERCISED ON THE ILO GOVERNING BODY.

3. ON FIRST READING THE U.S. POSITION, THE DFA OBSERVED THAT IT SEEMED A RATHER "STIFF" POSITION, BUT NOTED THAT FROM A TACTICAL VIEWPOINT, IT MADE GOOD SENSE TO STRIKE A SUITABLY TOUGH INITIAL STANCE FROM WHICH CONCESSIONS COULD BE MADE IN RETURN FOR CONCESSIONS GAINED FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THE GOA IS CONVINCED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE IMEC -- THAT "THE PATRONIZING STANCES OF THE PAST SIMPLY WON'T WASH IN THE CONTEMPORARY AGE."

4. THE DFA DID SOUND ONE CAUTIONARY NOTE: WHILE APPRECIATING THE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ITS CONTACTS WITH THE ILO, AND TO TRY TO HELP SHAPE AN EVOLUTION OF THE ILO IN A DIRECTION WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO RETURN TO THE ILO, THE U.S. MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET THE IMPRESSION GATHER FORCE THAT THE U.S. -- NOT PRESENTLY A MEMBER -- IS TRYING TO MANIPULATE THE ILO'S EVOLUTION TO ITS OWN TASTE. DFA POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CANBER 00752 010443Z

COUNTRIES WHICH ARE WATCHING VERY CLOSELY FOR SIGNS THAT THIS IS THE CASE -- THAT THE U.S., THROUGH ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC AND IMEC COUNTRIES -- IS STILL SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE ILO, WHILE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO ITS UPKEEP OR PARTICIPATING IN ITS MEETINGS; WHAT THE U.S. MUST AVOID IS THE SENSE THAT "THE U.S., LURKING IN THE SHADOWS, CONTINUES TO TRY TO GUIDE THE DIRECTION OF THE ILO." ALSTON

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NNN

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